

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/502,015

ART UNIT 1733
Q82646

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits concurrently herewith a replacement drawing of Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (Fig. 1)

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are presently pending in this application.

Applicant submits herewith a revised version of Fig. 1. The revised Fig. 1 and the foregoing amendments to the specification and to claim 1 are responsive to, and are believed to overcome, the §112, first paragraph, rejection in numbered paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

The §102(b) and §103(a) rejections over JP '101 are hereby overcome, since the **entire** tread rubber 1 in JP '101 is attached to the carcass via the belt layer 7 and the belt cover layer 8 as indicated in Fig. 1 of JP '101. In contrast, claim 1 recites a central portion of the tread rubber is attached to the carcass via a belt, whereas a side portion is attached directly to the carcass. Such a feature is neither taught nor suggested by JP '101.

Additionally, in Iwamura '559, the tread rubber is attached to the carcass via the belt layer 7 and a band layer 9. The band layer 9 is provided so as to sustain both ends of the belt layer so as to be raised due to centrifugal force as described in paragraph 0015 of Iwamura '559.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby

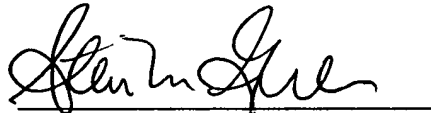
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solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

A Petition for Extension of Time with appropriate fee accompanies this document. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all additional required fees (with the exception of the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 5, 2007